I was honored to be named Vice-Chair of the House Select Committee on Global warming and Energy Independence by Chairman Ed Markey (D-Mass.). The Select Committee, learned last Congress that the climate crisis is impacting a number of areas which extend beyond traditional energy and environmental policy, including: national security, public health, transportation and building construction.

As Vice-Chairman, I will work closely with Chairman Markey in setting the agenda for the Select Committee and stand-in for the Chairman in his absence. The Select Committee is focused on increasing Congressional and public understanding of global warming and energy independence.

Global warming is one of the most serious challenges facing our civilization today, and I am honored that Chairman Markey has given me this opportunity to become even more deeply engaged in these issues. The Select Committee will play an important role in examining the myriad of issues that touch climate change, from transportation policy to the tax code to financing a greener economy. I look forward to working with Chairman Markey to ensure that these issues remain at the forefront in the 111th Congress.